Electronic Version

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Claims

[c1] A flashlight mounting apparatus for securing a flashlight to a support member extending from a sailboat, comprising:

a boat clamping mechanism for selectively coupling the flashlight mounting apparatus to the support member of the sailboat, said boat clamping mechanism being selectively slidable and rotatable relative to the support member; and

a flashlight clamping mechanism coupled to said boat clamping mechanism, said flashlight clamping mechanism intended to hold the flashlight for illuminating a dimly lit portion of the sailboat, said flashlight clamping mechanism being selectively rotatable relative to said boat clamping mechanism.

[c2] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said boat clamping mechanism comprises a first bracing member and a second bracing member pivotally coupled to said first bracing member, said boat clamping mechanism intended to grip the support member of the sailboat between said first bracing member and said second bracing member.

[c3] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein said first bracing member and said second bracing member each have a contoured surface for gripping the support member therebetween.

[c4] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 3 wherein said first bracing member includes a first plurality of hinge protrusions extending therefrom, said second bracing member including a second plurality of hinge protrusions extended therefrom, each of said first plurality of hinge protrusions and each of said second plurality of hinge protrusions having a hole integrally formed therein for receiving a pin when said first plurality of hinge protrusions are aligned with said second plurality of hinge protrusions.

[c5] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 3 wherein said boat clamping mechanism is a one-piece construction comprising:

said first bracing member;

said second bracing member; and

a living hinge element in connection between said first bracing member and said second bracing member.

[c6] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 3 wherein said flashlight clamping mechanism is a resilient

one-piece construction comprising:

a first gripping portion;

a second gripping portion; and

a flashlight gripping surface extending substantially across said first gripping portion and said second gripping portion;

wherein said first gripping portion and said second gripping portion are intended to have the flashlight placed therebetween on said flashlight gripping surface, said first gripping portion and said second gripping portion are intended to be forced together so as to sandwich the flashlight therebetween.

[c7] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 6 wherein each of said first bracing member, said second bracing member, said first gripping portion, and said second gripping portion have a channel integrally formed therethrough that is intended to receive a bolt member for coupling said boat clamping mechanism to said flashlight clamping mechanism, said bolt member also intended to force said first bracing member and said second bracing member together so as to sandwich the support member therebetween, said bolt member also intended to force said first gripping portion and said second gripping portion together so as to sandwich the flashlight therebetween.

[c8] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said bolt member is selectively coupled to a knob, said knob and said bolt member being intended to couple said boat clamping mechanism to said flashlight clamping mechanism, said knob and said bolt member also intended to force said first bracing member and said second bracing member together so as to sandwich the support member therebetween, said knob and said bolt member also intended to force said first gripping portion and said second gripping portion together so as to sandwich the flashlight therebetween.

[c9] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein said bolt member has an external threaded fastener integrated thereon and substantially across the length thereof, said knob having an aperture formed therethrough with an internal threaded fastener extending therein, said external threaded fastener of said bolt member intended to engage said internal threaded fastener of said knob.

[c10] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein said channel within one of said boat clamping mechanism and said flashlight clamping mechanism includes an internal threading for engaging said external threaded fastener of said bolt member and securing said

bolt member thereto.

[c11] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein said bolt member has an end portion sized substantially small for permitting said end portion to be inserted into said aperture of said knob without coupling said end portion to said internal threaded fastener of said knob.

[c12] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein said aperture of said knob has an end portion sized substantially large for permitting said bolt member to be inserted into said aperture without coupling said external threaded fastener of said bolt member to said end portion.

[c13] A flashlight mounting apparatus for securing a flashlight to a support member extending from a sailboat, comprising:

a boat clamping mechanism for selectively coupling the flashlight mounting apparatus to the support member of the sailboat, said boat clamping mechanism being selectively slidable and rotatable relative to the support member; and

a flashlight clamping mechanism coupled to said boat clamping mechanism, said flashlight clamping mechanism intended to hold the flashlight for illuminating a

dimly lit portion of the sailboat, said flashlight clamping mechanism being selectively rotatable relative to said boat clamping mechanism;

wherein said boat clamping mechanism has a first textured surface integrated thereon and said flashlight clamping mechanism has a second textured surface integrated thereon, said first textured surface positioned proximal to said second textured surface, said first textured surface and said second textured surface intended to be selectively forced against each other so as to secure said flashlight clamping mechanism in a fixed position relative to said boat clamping mechanism.

[c14] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 13 wherein said boat clamping mechanism comprises a first bracing member and a second bracing member pivotally coupled to said first bracing member, said boat clamping mechanism intended to grip the support member of the sailboat between said first bracing member and said second bracing member.

[c15] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 14 wherein said first bracing member and said second bracing member each have a contoured surface for gripping the support member therebetween.

[c16] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 15

wherein said flashlight clamping mechanism is a resilient one-piece construction comprising:

a first gripping portion;

a second gripping portion; and

a flashlight gripping surface extending substantially across said first gripping portion and said second gripping portion;

wherein said first gripping portion and said second gripping portion are intended to have the flashlight placed therebetween on said flashlight gripping surface, said first gripping portion and said second gripping portion are intended to be forced together so as to sandwich the flashlight therebetween.

[c17] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 16 wherein each of said first bracing member, said second bracing member, said first gripping portion, and said second gripping portion have a channel integrally formed therethrough that is intended to receive a bolt member, said bolt member intended to be selectively coupled to a knob for coupling said boat clamping mechanism to said flashlight clamping mechanism, said bolt member also intended to force said first bracing member and said second bracing member together so as to sandwich the support member therebetween, said bolt member also intended to force said first gripping portion

and said second gripping portion together so as to sandwich the flashlight therebetween.

[c18] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 17 wherein said second bracing member of said boat clamping mechanism has said first textured surface integrated thereon adjacent to said channel, said first gripping portion of said flashlight clamping mechanism having said second textured surface integrated thereon adjacent to said channel, said second bracing member of said boat clamping mechanism being positioned proximal to said first gripping portion of said flashlight clamping mechanism.

[c19] The flashlight mounting apparatus as recited in claim 18 wherein at least one of said first bracing member of said boat clamping mechanism and said second gripping portion of said flashlight clamping mechanism includes a reinforcement washer integrated thereon for engaging said knob.

[c20] A flashlight mounting apparatus for securing a flashlight to a support member extending from a sailboat, comprising:

a boat clamping mechanism for selectively coupling the flashlight mounting apparatus to the support member of the sailboat, said boat clamping mechanism being selec-

tively slidable and rotatable relative to the support member;

a flashlight clamping mechanism coupled to said boat clamping mechanism, said flashlight clamping mechanism intended to hold the flashlight for illuminating a dimly lit portion of the sailboat, said flashlight clamping mechanism being selectively rotatable relative to said boat clamping mechanism;

a rubber washer coupled between said boat clamping mechanism and said flashlight clamping mechanism, said rubber washer intended to selectively fixedly couple said flashlight clamping mechanism to said boat clamping mechanism; and

a sleeve insert selectively coupled to at least one of the support member and the flashlight, said sleeve insert intended to allow a smaller sized flashlight and a smaller sized support member to be coupled to the flashlight mounting apparatus;

wherein said boat clamping mechanism has a first textured surface integrated thereon and said flashlight clamping mechanism has a second textured surface integrated thereon, said first textured surface positioned proximal to said second textured surface with said rubber washer positioned therebetween, said first textured surface and said second textured surface intended to be selectively forced against each other so as to secure said

flashlight clamping mechanism in a fixed position relative to said boat clamping mechanism.